



Funding Newsletter

The monthly College of Medical & Dental Sciences update on funding and research support news and opportunities

Issue 1

September 2013

Intention to Submit Deadlines

BBSRC

Research Grants

Funder: 8.1.14

ItS: 16.10.2013

MRC

Research Grants & New Investigators

Mol & Cell Medicine

Funder: 8.1.14

ItS: 16.10.2013

Infection & Immunity

Funder: 15.1.14

ItS: 23.10.2013

Popn & Systems Med

Funder: 21.1.14

ItS: 30.10.2013

Neuro & Mental Health

Funder: 4.2.14

ItS: 12.11.2013

NIHR

Public Health Research Programme Commissioned calls

Funder: 18.12.13

ItS: 25.9.2013

i4i product development

Funder: 15.1.14

ItS: 23.10.2013

HS&DR

Funder: 30.1.14

ItS: 7.11.2013

Programme Development Grants

Funder: 4.3.14

ItS: 10.12.2013

Programme Grants

Funder: 18.3.14

ItS: 24.12.2012

Upcoming funding opportunities & info

Every month we do our best to horizon scan for new opportunities across a huge range of funders, and do our best to give you plenty of warning – the calendars here let you know about recurrent calls over the next year, while we provide more detail on schemes closing in the next 6 months:

- [Projects & Programmes Newsletter](#)
- [Small, Equipment & Travel Awards Newsletter](#)
- [Studentships & Scholarships Newsletter](#)
- [Fellowships and Individual Awards Newsletter](#)
- [NIHR grants](#)
- [Projects & Programmes Calendar \(prints best in A3 colour\)](#)
- [Studentships & Scholarships Calendar](#)
- [Fellowships Calendar](#)

Don't forget to let us know!

- [Intention to Submit Guidance](#)
- [RCUK Intention to Submit Form](#)
- [NIHR Intention to Submit Form](#)

PhD studentships

With many funders moving to consolidated, institutional block grants, many people seem to think our internal allocation is one of the only (or at least the easiest) ways to actually get new PhD students. Bad news first – it's not!

In a large College with very few students, it's actually pretty tough. But wait – good news! There are still loads of external opportunities that people seem to have missed. From the standalone [BHF studentships](#), [Wellcome Trust Doctoral Studentships in Medical Humanities](#) to the [MRC](#) and [BBSRC CASE studentships](#) (which have had funding rates of nearly 50% recently), there are plenty of chances to get students externally funded.

Check out the specific opportunities link through this newsletter, and rest assured we'll give you plenty of help with the applications.

Internal funding streams

For those of you in need of funding to help with career development and pilot data for future grants, the College's **Research Development Fund** is particularly aimed at early- and mid-career researchers.

It can provide up to £5,000 for small research projects, travel to learn new skills and develop collaborations, or to help generate that extra bit of data for high-impact publications. It's a simple 2-page application with decisions made by a cross-College committee. The next deadline is 12pm Monday 7th October. For more details see <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/mds/percat/index.aspx>.

We also anticipate another round of Wellcome Trust ISSF calls later this year, which is very similar to the above but allows for projects up to around £20,000. We'll update you all as soon as we hear more...

Fellowships

Thinking about the next step in your career? There are a bewildering number of fellowship opportunities available (see the link in this newsletter), from the range of [NIHR Fellowships](#) (expected to open October with a deadline in January) to the [MRC's](#) portfolio of Career Development Awards, Clinician Scientists, Population Health or Methodology Fellowships through to Senior Fellowships. And the [Wellcome Trust](#) funding is pretty much all about fellows, from basic and clinical schemes to their huge Investigator Awards (which actually get less applications than you would think – now's a good time to go for them!).

Whatever you're interested in, and however far in the future, come and talk to your local Research Facilitator and get support for early academic input via the Grant Clinics or mentoring schemes we run, and look out for our R&KT Workshop in October specifically about Fellowships and how to get yourself ready for them.

Upcoming Workshop:

“Developing your potential – Fellowships and Investigator awards” will be held on Wednesday 23rd October 1 -2 pm in the CPD Lecture theatre.

Useful Links

[Our Office](#)
[PURE](#)
[Pink Form](#)
[RIS Events](#)
[Research Professional](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Research Facilitators

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RCUK Impact

Confused about what on earth MRC, BBSRC or any of the other Research Councils mean by 'Impact Summary' vs 'Pathways to Impact'? Fear not – your Research Facilitator can help you tackle these, which are becoming an increasingly important part of the review process to help decide between a range of strong science proposals.

- Your **Summary** should explain who can benefit and how, such as industry, clinicians, patients, the public, or other academic groups.
- Your **Pathways** have to explain how you will specifically reach out to these groups within the lifetime of your grant.

We can work with you to make sure you're making the most of the local infrastructure to support these activities, and don't forget that the Research Councils actually expect you to cost in funding specifically to help you achieve this – up to 5% of the total cost of your grant...

Pink forms – when should I submit?

The '[pink form](#)' is the College approval that lets you go ahead and submit a grant. It is needed for every grant, from those you are the lead researcher on to ones on which you're a collaborator with other institutions, and for preliminary outline grants as well as full and final submissions.

However, the aim is really to provide you with support and feedback early, so don't wait for a final draft of the proposal or every last penny on your finances – go ahead and fill it in as soon as you have a good draft, aim for two weeks before submission.

Internships and Secondments

Want to get more out of your PhD, or work with bright minds outside of the academic sector? There are a range of opportunities open to help you do just that.

From the Academy of Medical Science 3-month '[Policy Internships](#)' open to all MRC funded PhD students, to the [Knowledge Transfer Secondment scheme](#) operated by the University (deadlines 4 times per year), working with people outside of your discipline can open up new opportunities for funding and career development that might not typically come your way. Speak to your Research Facilitator to find out more about how to apply.

Public engagement support

Anyone enthusiastic about interacting with the public can apply for small internal grants anywhere up to £1,500 (and possibly more if discussed early) to develop novel, imaginative engagement activities and tools through the University's Public Engagement Working Group, chaired by Alice Roberts and supported locally by Eliot Marston (e.d.marston@bham.ac.uk).

We're also keen to help you develop ideas about potential audiences to interact with and how to create your own activities, whether for your Pathways to Impact statements or just because you'd like to get involved, so check out our [intranet support](#) (and tell us how we can improve it!).

If you are keen on interacting with patients and the public to help with NIHR grant funding – an increasing priority now that public representatives sit on the panel making funding decisions – then the local [Research Design Service](#) offer bursaries of up to £500 as well as advice on how best to deliver activity.

It's good to talk

MRC highlights the potential scientific benefits of taking the time to chat to fellow researchers over a coffee in their regular newsletter [Network](#). There are also articles on the greatest scientific advances of the past 100 years and hopes for the future, their picks of the latest discoveries, and some funding information.

You can find similar newsletters from other major funders such as the [NIHR](#), or you can check out blogs from funders such as [CRUK](#), [BBSRC](#) or the [Wellcome Trust](#).

Tell us how we can be more useful!

Hopefully you've found the new-look Funding Newsletter useful, or at least interesting. Let us know if you have any ideas how we can improve it – from spotlights on specific topics to perhaps including details of key papers published and grants awarded in the College this month.

Also, if you have ideas for workshops you would like us to put on to give you more guidance on any research-related subject, from grant writing to business engagement and beyond, please get in touch – we're always keen for good ideas that might help people.

Let us know by e-mailing
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